

# VALLEY STAR

THE INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF LOS ANGELES VALLEY COLLEGE

VOLUME 68, ISSUE NO. 10

MAY 21, 2008

It's YOUR NEWSPAPER

## Spending of ASU Funds Draws Criticism

BY ASTRID SEIPELT  
NEWS EDITOR

A donation of \$4,000 by the Associated Student Union to Valley College President Tyree Wieder's retirement party has lead incoming ASU president Josh Wible to raise concerns about the budgeting of student funds.

"This is nothing to do with Tyree," Wible said. I think she deserves a wonderful party and many congratulations and thanks for the job she has done here. But that's my \$7 in fees to be a member of the ASU and help support the ASU in their efforts to help benefit students on campus. When I hear such a large portion of their budget went to an administrative personnel's retirement party, I just question the integrity of that decision."

Wible said he found out about the donation while talking with the current ASU president Mari Kiridjian. According to the budget request, the \$4,000 will pay for audiovisual equipment, flowers and entertainment.

When submitting a budget request to the Finance  
**see ASU page 7**



## WHO IS AFRAID OF THE BIG BAD WOLF

JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

Valley's presentation of Fun, Fables & Fairy Tales on Sunday evening featured music by the Vocal Jazz Ensemble conducted by Glenn Carlos. No popular bedtime stories were spared, with everything from the "Three Little Pigs" to "Little Red Riding Hood" translated into song for all to enjoy. See the full story on page 5.

## New Sheriff in Town at Valley

BY WILL REYES  
EDITOR AT LARGE

Valley College named Deputy Rick Baker as the new team leader Monday, replacing former Deputy Tom Lynch, who was reassigned after an injury.

As team leader, Baker will now be in charge of Valley's sheriff's department, overseeing the 17-person staff of nine armed security officers and eight student cadets.



FILE PHOTO / VALLEY STAR  
New Deputy Sheriff Rick Baker

"I'm very happy to have the job and very excited," Baker said. "I'm looking forward to all my time here working with the security personnel, faculty, students and the staff."

Baker has been working at Valley since Lynch's injury in February and previously spent time on campus as a roving deputy, giving him an opportunity to familiarize himself with the school.

"I've already gotten to know a lot of [people] and they're very friendly," Baker said. "I'm looking forward to mixing in well with them."

Vice President of Administrative Services Tom Jacobsmeyer, who is in charge of supervising Valley's sheriffs, said he was pleased to have Baker.

"We know Deputy Baker because he's worked here off and on for almost two years," Jacobsmeyer said. "When Deputy Lynch accepted his new training position, we had an opening [and] we said we'd just like to keep Rick."

Lynch worked at Valley for approximately two years before taking his unspecified injury leave. His absence coincided with an investigation into a racial profiling complaint

**see Sheriff page 7**



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**JUST SO YOU KNOW** - A software problem with a credit card machine in the Valley College cafeteria that printed entire card numbers and expiration dates on the store copy, has been fixed. A student, Lori Parolari, fearing identity theft, brought the matter to the school's attention last week.

## Cafeteria Receives Low Credit Score

BY BRAD TAYOR  
MANAGING EDITOR

After Valley College student Lori Parolari complained about her credit card number and expiration date appearing on her receipt, the college's cafeteria is complying with state and federal laws.

"This is a risk to the entire student body," Parolari said. "It wasn't just me, it is not an isolated incident."

She discovered that Integrated Support Solutions Inc., the company that runs the cafeteria, was printing entire credit card numbers on their receipts, leaving the door open to identity theft. She quickly brought the problem to school administrators and to the Valley Star.

California legislation Chapter

682, put into effect in 2006, prohibits printing more than the last five digits of the credit card account number or the expiration date upon any receipt retained by the person. There is also Federal legislation called the "Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act" that states the same. This does not however apply to hand written receipts or those receipts manually imprinted with the credit card number.

When asked about the matter, the company's management referred the Valley Star to their lawyers. ISSI is the fourth company in two years to occupy the cafeteria space. The company operates food services for four other Los Angeles community colleges: College of the Canyons,

**see Credit page 7**

## End of an Era at Valley

BY ASTRID SEIPELT  
NEWS EDITOR

In her office in a quiet corner of the Administration Building, Tyree Wieder nibbles the turkey sandwich she has been too busy to eat all day and ponders her looming retirement as president of Valley College.

"It's coming up very fast; when my husband retired three years ago, we had kind of thought about this, and now it's here," said Wieder, who retires June 30. "I'm just trying to wrap up some things . . . One of the difficulties with this job is that it never slows down."

Students and faculty at Valley know of her tireless work for the college as president for the past 14 years, but Wieder works just as hard as a

mom to her daughter, Shavonne.

"My mom has been a full-time mother and college administrator my entire life," Shavonne said. "She made it to every soccer game, to many Girl Scout cookie sales, and even the camp parent's days and still was in all her staff meetings, board meetings and numerous campus student events. She takes such pride in the look of the campus, that's something that she has instilled in me at home as well."

For those who see the 61-year-old Wieder around campus, it may be difficult to imagine her as anyone but a school official. However, she has many interests that lie outside of the college, including reading, music and scrap booking.

**see Wieder page 7**



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

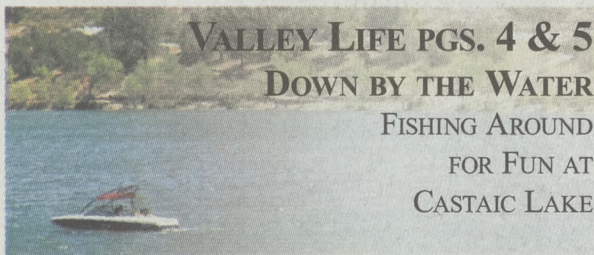
**SHE'S RELAXED ALREADY** - Valley College President Tyree Wieder is retiring June 30. She says she's looking forward to spending time with her family, traveling and not having to wake up at 6:30 a.m. to get ready for work.

## SPRING 2008 FINALS SCHEDULE - MAY 27 TO JUNE 2

Day & Date of Final Exam	MONDAY June 2			TUESDAY May 27		
Time of Exam	6:30 - 8:30 am	9:30 - 11:30 am	12:30 - 2:30 pm	6:30 - 8:30 am	9:30 - 11:30 am	12:30 - 2:30 pm
Normal Class Schedule	6:30-7:55 MW 6:45-7:55 MTWR	9:40-10:50 MTWR 9:40-11:05 MW 9:40-10:55 MWF	1:00-2:10 MTWR 1:00-2:25 MW 1:00-2:15 MWR	6:30-7:55 TR 9:40-11:05 TR 9:40-10:55 TRF	1:00-2:25 TR 1:00-2:15 TRF	
Day & Date of Final Exam	WEDNESDAY May 28			THURSDAY May 29		
Time of Exam	8:00 - 10:00 am	10:30 - 12:30 pm	1:00 - 3:00 pm	8:00 - 10:00 am	10:30 - 12:30 pm	1:00 - 3:00 pm
Normal Class Schedule	8:15-9:25 MTWR 8:00-9:25 MW 8:00-9:15 MWF	11:20-12:30 MTWR 11:20-12:45 MW 11:20-12:35 MWF	2:20-3:30 MTWR 2:40-4:05 MW	8:00-9:25 TR 8:00-9:15 TRF	11:20-12:45 TR 11:20-12:35 TRF	1:45-3:10 TR 1:45-3:00 TRF



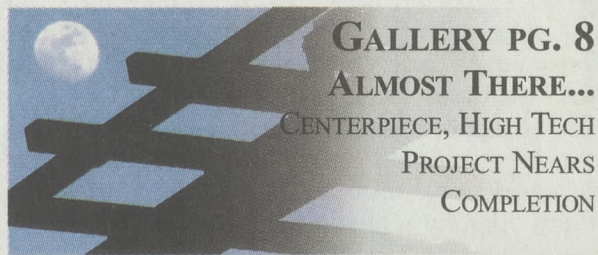
**OPINION PG. 3**  
**LOVE IT OR HATE IT**  
LAVC - THE PLACE TO BE,  
OR IS OUR CAMPUS IN  
NEED OF SAVING?



**VALLEY LIFE PGS. 4 & 5**  
**DOWN BY THE WATER**  
FISHING AROUND  
FOR FUN AT  
CASTAIC LAKE



**SPORTS PG. 6**  
**DIVE WRIGHT IN**  
MODEL STUDENT AND  
SILVER MEDALIST MAKES A  
SPLASH AT VALLEY



**GALLERY PG. 8**  
**ALMOST THERE...**  
CENTERPIECE, HIGH TECH  
PROJECT NEARS  
COMPLETION



Summer Session: A Time to Get Ahead

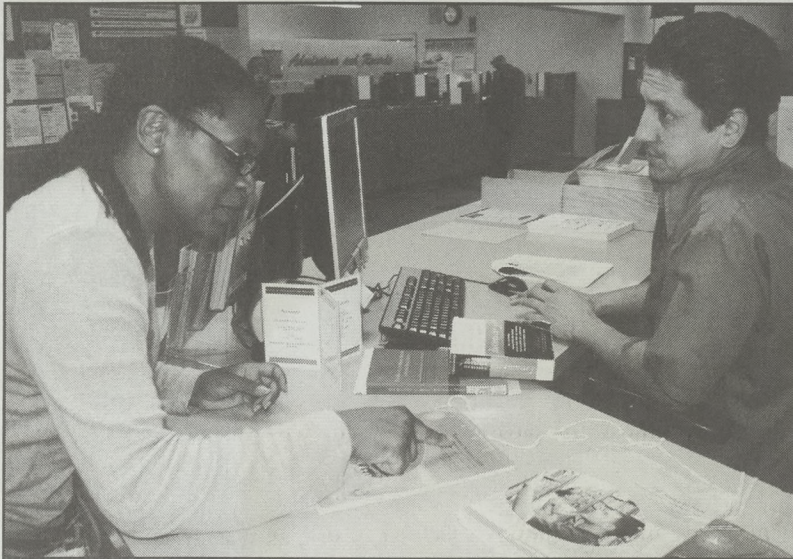
BY BRAD TAYLOR AND ASTRID SEIPELT  
STAFF WRITERS

Summer session offers Valley College students a chance to catch up, get ahead and do it all in half the time.

Split into two five week sessions meeting Monday through Friday, summer courses are often overlooked and underappreciated. For all those looking for a way to make the most of their time, summer session offers many benefits and these tips can help students get the most bang for their buck.

1-Take lower tier classes and get them out of the way. If you have any 101 classes left to take, summer is the perfect time. The accelerated pace won't be too harsh for the beginning courses and leaves you free to take higher level classes during the regular semesters.

2-Try something new. If you are unsure of your major, try taking a variety of courses over



PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

**LOOKING FOR HELP** - Valley College student Jorge Guerrero, right, helps Kim Ramsey get the school's summer catalog for her son, Kimati, who is a student at Notre Dame High School. Kimati took a class at Valley last summer.

the summer and see if something really interests you. If that Astronomy course doesn't live up to your expectations, just remember - it was only five weeks of your time at Valley, and it still transfers over to the UC and CSU systems.

3-Smaller class sizes means more attention. Many summer classes do not fill completely, so if you want more one-on-one time, this is the session for you.

4- If you need to catch up on your credits or just want to stay ahead of the curve, the summer sessions provides a great opportunity do so There are countless transferable classes on offer, so you can quickly take those courses you just found out you need to transfer to USC. Graduating on time, or early, was never so

Deserving Students on the Money

BY ELIZEDA BELTRAN  
STAFF WRITER

Valley College students, faculty, family and donors assembled in Monarch Hall Thursday for the Annual Scholarship and Awards Night ceremony.

"This is a great afternoon and a great event and we are so pleased to see all of you, both our donors and scholarship recipients," said Valley President Tyree Wieder during her opening speech. "This is one of the best days of the year for the campus. My other favorite, of course, is commencement."

Don Guathier, Academic Senate president, addressed the honorees in slightly different language.

"There's a famous ketchup company that's working on perfecting a tomato, and in some ways that's what we're doing here, we're perfecting all you tomatoes," he said, "so that you can go out into the world and really be the best."

The event, sponsored by the Associated Student Union, Student Services and the LAVC Foundation, attracted approximately 300 hundred people. The Foundation awarded 106 scholarships, adding up to \$130,000, an increase from \$110,000 in 2007.

Before the awards were handed out, the audience was introduced to the vocal ranges of Patricio Castillo, who won a Showcase award for his vocal performances. The Showcase award recognizes student achievement in the performing and visual arts.

Other Showcase award recipients were Atticus McKittrick for instrumental music, and Alyssa Carter and Emily Lehrer for theater arts.

As students lined up after the performances to receive their scholarships, it was evident that Eboni Haynes, an African American studies and political science major, was

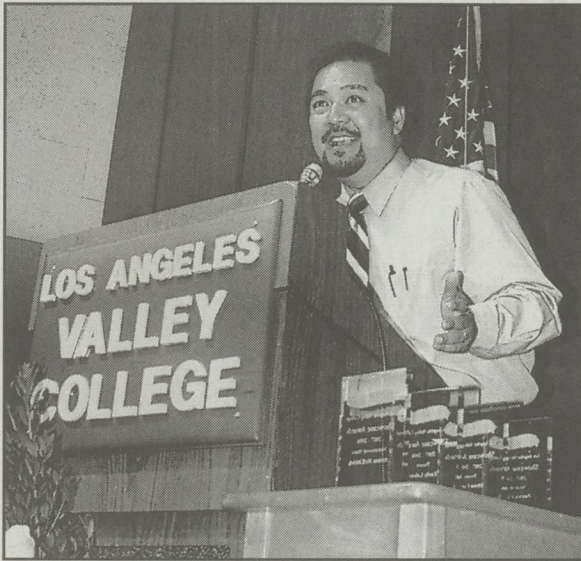
the big winner of the night, taking home five awards.

"It feels wonderful, that's the only thing I can say at this point, and I'm tired," she said as she waited in line at the end of the program to collect her scholarships. "This just really ... gives me a nice send off to my next step."

Her next step is either UCLA or UC Berkeley, but first she will use half of the money to "pay [her] credit cards, and the other half [she will] put in the bank, nothing too crazy."

Other big winners included, Hasmik Tadevosyan, Tracee Porter, and Lisa Sandino, each with four scholarships.

see Scholarship page 7



PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

**STEP UP AND GET YOUR AWARD** - LAVC Foundation Director Raul Castillo introduces the winners of various scholarships and grants last Thursday in Monarch Hall.

California Paves Way for Gay Marriage

BY KRISTEN BECKER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

California is set to become the second state in the nation, after Massachusetts, to allow same-sex couples to marry, after the state's Supreme Court issued a much-anticipated ruling Thursday declaring that California's ban on homosexual marriage was unconstitutional.

"We therefore conclude that in view of the substance and significance of the fundamental constitutional right to form a family relationship," Chief Justice Ronald George wrote in the majority opinion, "the California Constitution properly must be interpreted to guarantee this basic civil right to all Californians, whether gay or heterosexual, and to same-sex couples as well as to

opposite-sex couples."

Citing the 1948 case of *Perez v Sharp*, which made interracial marriage legal in California, George wrote that the 60-year-old case "makes clear that history alone is not invariably an appropriate guide for determining the meaning and scope of this fundamental constitutional guarantee."

In 2000, the California voters approved Proposition 22 that amended the civil code to say, "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." Last week's 4-3 decision ruled that the ballot initiative violated the constitutional rights of homosexuals. The ruling will take affect in June if it is not challenged in court.

"I respect the Court's decision and as governor, I will

uphold its ruling," California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger said in a statement. "Also, as I have said in the past, I will not support an amendment to the constitution that would overturn this state Supreme Court ruling."

The decision comes as the debate over the right of homosexual couples to marry is heating up. A coalition of politicians, religious officials and other individuals are trying to get the California Marriage Protection Act on the November ballot. If passed, the act would create a constitutional amendment explicitly stating that marriage is between a man and woman.

"The court's rationale for its decision should prompt outrage from the majority of California's citizens," said

see Marriage page 7

Crime Down as Spring Ends

BY SHEILA KOOCHAK  
STAFF WRITER

**Grand Theft** - A student arrived May 19 at the Math Science Building with her Louis Vuitton purse to see her friends before class began. She proceeded to her class at 11:20 a.m. and realized her purse was no longer in her possession. She retraced her steps in order to find the purse, but was unsuccessful. She reported her purse missing later on that day

along with several credit cards, a cell phone, her driver's license and an iPod Nano.

**Vandalism** - A student arrived at her vehicle May 17 around 8:50 a.m. to find all tires on her vehicle slashed, with five to six-inch-deep cuts by an unknown object. The student stated she was going through a bitter break-up with her ex-boyfriend and has filed reports against him to the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department.

Spring '08 Flashback

**Racial Profiling on Campus** - Uriel Eddie, a dental hygiene major at Valley College, alleged in January that he was racially profiled by Deputy Tom Lynch, the team leader of Valley's Sheriff's Department. According to the complaint, Lynch said to Eddie, "You're black and the guy we are looking for is black, so what do you expect?" The Los Angeles Sheriff's Department concluded its investigation in March and found its deputy was not guilty but his conduct "could have been better." Eddie said that he was not surprised by the outcome but was "totally disappointed in their final decision."

**Budget Cuts Slash Services** - Tutoring centers at Valley College are being forced to reduce the services they offer to students because of recent budget cuts. All the tutoring labs on campus, including the Writing Center, Math Lab and the Learning Center have seen a 10 percent cut in their budgets. Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Marshall Drummond said that during the next year, he expects the situation to get worse "unless some miracle happens." The Writing Center is trying to deal with the cuts by encouraging students to volunteer

as tutors, facilitate more workshops, and encourage students to use the program's online tutoring.

**One Brick at a Time** - Building and renovation projects carried on at Valley College during spring, while construction setbacks continued to be addressed. The Theatre Arts and Music buildings were some of the projects that were behind schedule, in addition to the Art building. "The Recital Hall was supposed to be done before school started in September, and it's not done now, and it won't be done until the end of summer," said Dennis Reed, dean of fine arts. For the concert series "we had to move to another venue, which was not really ideal."

**Logo No More** - Club Psyche was forced to remove its fliers from around Valley because of complaints made regarding its logo. It shows a drawing of psychiatrist Sigmund Freud with a naked woman forming part of his face. Yasmin Delahoussaye, the vice president of student services said "I'm all for allowing students to post the things that they want to post, but we unfortunately end up having to make a decision." Jenya Lano, the president of Club Psyche thought it was unfair to make the club remove their fliers. "I just think it's strange that one person can decide what can be used and what can't be used, when in a lot of peoples' opinion, [the logo was deemed] appropriate."

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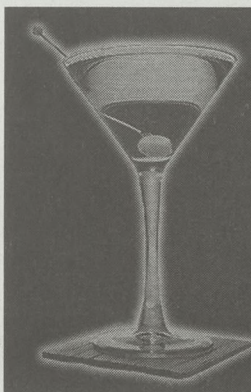
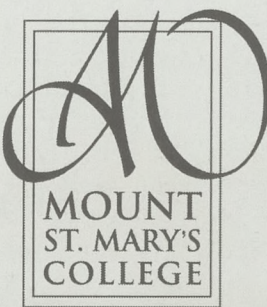
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# OPINION

## ONE WAY OR ANOTHER

### Good Vitals at Valley

SHEILA KOOCHAK  
STAFF WRITER

Distinguished professors, strong faculty, diverse campus, hands-on learning and a great education – that's what Valley College is all about.

Whether you're a student filled with school spirit or a student who spends as little time on campus as possible, most will agree it's an undeniably splendid school in many aspects. The instructors are exceptional, the campus is well-kept, and there isn't that much criminal activity, what more can one ask for?

This school has bright professors that make a difference in the students' lives. Instructors who give all they have to help the next generation become stronger individuals; those who teach because it's their passion.

Just like any other college, Valley has its shortcomings; the ongoing construction, a few unmodernized buildings, the lack of working air-conditioning in some bungalows, but the positives outweigh the negatives.

So you thought Valley's parking was rough? It is incomparable to Pierce College's parking. They have more than seven parking lots, none of which are even remotely close to the classroom buildings and have more students than parking spaces. As a student who at one time attended Pierce, their classes were so overcrowded that people would sit on the floor and outside the classrooms to be added to the course, just for the teacher to pull names from a hat to determine who stays, and who goes, as if we were in some kind of game show, fighting for an add slip.

Mission College is another grim school I attended. Since it's a "new" school, many of the counselors and professors have no idea what is going on. At one point, I saw five different advisors because they all told me something different. The parking was absolutely horrible; with no parking structure, finding a spot became a mission impossible. Instead of overcrowding, Mission is a quaint campus with very limited class offerings – the core minimal, no school newspaper, not many clubs and very minor school-to-student involvement.

Valley is a campus with just the right amount of students enrolled. There are enough classes for everyone, and if there isn't, Valley will open a class for those who were not able to register for their desired class. Valley's campus also makes you feel comfortable and safe. There is always someone around looking out. Valley isn't overcrowded, but it isn't quiet enough that you can hear the crickets as you walk across campus; the population is just right. Whether you love this campus or not, it sure is a school you'll never forget.

### Valley: A Derelict Dump

BRAD TAYLOR  
MANAGING EDITOR

Dear Oprah, I am writing because I heard you cancelled your "Big Give" show, but you are Valley College's only hope. You see, our once beautiful campus is now locked in perpetual construction.

I have read of your giving nature and how you build schools that actually get built. Valley is in some serious need of help. My fellow students and I have spent

this school year navigating around yellow tape and trying to block out the endless beeping of backing dump trucks.

Instead of the state-of-the-art educational labs of the future we keep hearing about, we are crammed into sub-standard bungalows that were temporary in the 1960s. I hope the irony of having to take a speech class in a shanty classroom where all the voices are drowned out by bulldozers and loud construction workers isn't lost on you. Ms. Winfrey, you have

shows where you give away cars and remodel houses; all I am asking for is a walkway where my handicapped classmates and I don't fear falling into an abyss. Our troubles are well documented in the Valley Star; we have amassed quite an impressive gallery of potholes and empty swimming pools.

Think of all the positive press you and your Angel Network would receive from helping a financially-strapped Valley College. We could change our mascot from the Monarchs to the Winfreys – who knows, maybe the new name would actually get students to come to a sporting event.

Oh, and imagine all the possible shows you could produce from our campus. You could remake our bungalows with actual air conditioning or do an exposé on racial profiling, and our revolving-door cafeteria owners and credit-card-receipt scandals could fill a dozen reality shows.

Lastly, we are losing our beloved President Tyree Wieder; only you could convince the amazing lady to stay. No one can say no to the Oprah, and we need Tyree to stay at Valley. Maybe you could buy her a million dollar apartment like you did for Gail.

Please Oprah, call John Travolta and hop in his jet and grab Tom Cruise along the way. Time is running out, I heard that Valley is breaking ground on a new TV studio and I can't spend another semester in a freezing bungalow or fighting for parking spaces with construction workers.



ILLUSTRATION / PARANDZEM GRIGORYAN / VALLEY STAR

## Frenzied Fertility Fiasco

BY ASTRID SEIPELT  
NEWS EDITOR

When I look at my family and those of my friends, it seems that we are all pretty average when it comes to siblings. I have a brother, my boyfriend has two sisters and my roommate has one of each.

The average American woman has 2.1 children in her lifetime, but the Duggar family of Tontitown, Arkansas, is doing its best to push that average higher. The Duggars, already a family of 19, recently announced that baby 18 is on the way, due January 2009.

The reason that the deeply-Christian Michelle and Jim-Bob Duggar have such a humungous brood can be traced back to when they first married in 1984. The birth control pill was their method of choice to put off having children, but Michelle miscarried while taking it. The couple suddenly realized they held pro-life beliefs and 'their selfish actions had taken the life of their child.'

The real selfish action here is the choice to have so many children. I'm all for people having the kids that they desire, but 18 is ridiculous. How can two people have the capa-

bility of giving each child the individual attention and love they deserve? I imagine that with the current 17 brothers and sisters, it is pretty easy to be lost in the sea of siblings.

Each of the younger children in the Duggar family has a 'buddy' older sibling whose job it is to help raise the younger child, according to the family Web site. If a mother and father don't have the time to look after their own children, that in itself is a clue to stop reproducing. It's not right that a child barely into its teens is expected to look after an infant sibling if there are two parents who can do it themselves.

Another act of selfishness is Jim-Bob expecting his wife to carry so many children. The strain of pregnancy is enormous on the body, even once. Having to endure 18 pregnancies is astounding. Each pregnancy presents a higher risk to the mother, especially when each of Michelle's pregnancies are barely a year apart. How a husband can ask that of his wife is ridiculous. Once baby number 18 is born, Michelle will have spent 13 years of her life knocked up. It's a wonder she isn't asking for all that time back.

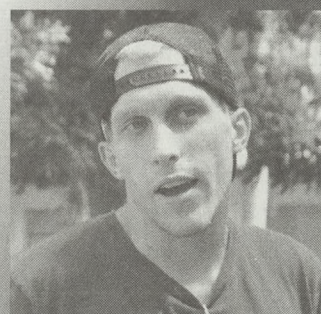
Having such a huge family must be a strain on the wallet, so where exactly do the Duggars get the cash to support themselves? Their web site states they live debt free and do not take government handouts, but I find that hard to believe. How did they manage to build a sprawling 7,000-square-foot house and kit it out with everything their ever-growing family needs? When my family built a house just a few years ago, we were left with a hefty mortgage, even after my parents saved as hard as they could and lived well within their means.

I guess if we had whored ourselves out to cable television like the Duggars, we wouldn't have had so much to worry about.

Though the choice of having 18 children is their own, it has to stop somewhere. Children are a blessing, but the blessing the parents see is a curse on the children. And with each of the children's name starting with a J, they are bound to start running out soon.

## CAMPUS View

photos by Juan Robles / Valley Star



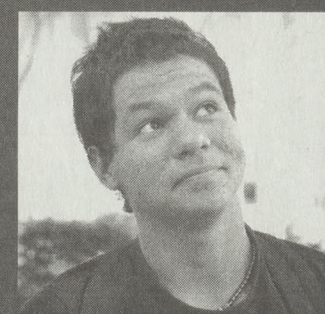
"It was cool other than the security guards. They harassed me and other skateboarders. I don't know why, I was just standing on my skateboard."

-Collin Spratlin, business



"It's been challenging. Certain teachers and their orbits can be hard to adapt to. Campus is great, I like it, I like all the trees, good air, oxygen."

-Tatiana Popovic, political science



"I had a good semester, people are nice and generous. Pretty much out of the ordinary, people really have respect, unlike many other places. All is good."

-Sergio Calderon, philosophy



"It's been a good semester. It's been kinda noisy and annoying and the Humanities Building is a little bit, ugh. But overall, I'm enjoying it. I love it."

-Dalila Duarte, english

Did this semester, like, totally suck?

## Health Fad Hijinks

KRISTEN BECKER  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

I am not a doctor. In fact, I barely passed biology and chemistry in high school. Given my poor aptitude for the sciences, I am hardly qualified to make drastic life changes based on what I think the medical community's latest findings might mean.

In our health-obsessed society, so many people are searching for the miracle drug that will cure cancer or prevent old age. Unfortunately, this overwhelming desire encourages members of the general public, who are no more knowledgeable about medicine than I am, to go to extreme measures to live by the findings of each new study.

"What medical journals publish is not received wisdom, but rather working papers," wrote Marcia Angell and Jerome Kassirer, former editors of the New England Journal of Medicine. "Each of these is meant to communicate to other researchers and to doc-

tors the results of one study. Each study becomes a piece of a puzzle that, when assembled, will help either to confirm or refute a hypothesis."

Angell and Kassirer explain that doctors do not normally change their practices based on one study because they "know that clinical research rarely advances in one giant leap."

The screaming newspaper headlines, announcing these new cures are a large part of the problem.

"When the media tries to explain the latest cancer research in layman's terms, what the shampoo ads used to call 'the science bit', is often skipped over or misleadingly summarized . . ." columnist Kathy Foley wrote in the Sunday Times of London. "If a study finds that porridge-eating, red-headed, left-handed women between the age of 40 and 45 are marginally more likely to fall ill with cancer, the headline will undoubtedly read: Killer porridge causes cancer." When I was a young child,

my mom gave me the best health advice I'll probably ever need – she made sure I ate my vegetables and plenty of fresh fruit, limited my junk food intake and provided me with a balanced diet. While I do not necessarily follow these childhood lessons, I still know that healthy foods and moderation are the keys to a healthy life.

"What is called for is more moderation in our response to news of clinical research," Angell and Kassirer advised. "Every study reported in the media does not require an all-or-nothing response in our diet or lifestyle. In general, we should not embrace the conclusions of a study until other studies support them."

Rather than going to extremes with the hopes of living forever, I recognize that no matter how many studies are done, mortality is a health problem that science will never be able to counter and thus, I intend to enjoy life while I have it without worrying about the latest health fad.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION / JOHN PHILLIPS / VALLEY STAR



LAVC  
EVENTS

Wednesday, May 21

Free Wednesday Concert – LAVC Jazz Ensemble @ 1 p.m. (Music 112); Admission: Free – Contact: Music Dept (818) 947-2347

Thursday, May 22

LAVC Performance Workshop Concert @ 11:30 a.m. (Music 106); Admission: Free – Contact: Music Dept (818) 947-2347

Broadway Showcase Concert @ 3:30 p.m. (Music 106); Admission: Free – Contact: Music Dept (818) 947-2347

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day – Campus Closed

Tuesday, May 27

SPRING 2008 Final Examinations

Wednesday, May 28

SPRING 2008 Final Examinations

Thursday, May 29

SPRING 2008 Final Examinations

8th Annual EOPS/CARE Awards Luncheon @ 12 p.m. (Monarch Hall) – Contact: (818) 947-2727

Friday, May 30

SPRING 2008 Final Examinations

Saturday, May 31

SPRING 2008 Final Examinations Sunday, June 1

Monday, June 2

SPRING 2008 Final Examinations

Wednesday, June 4

LAVC Commencement 2008 @ 5:30 p.m. (Monarch Stadium) – Contact: Sherri Rodriguez (818) 947-2702

Wednesday, June 11

Deadline to Sign up for Cooperative Education Summer Session 2008 @ (Bungalow 48) – Contact: Cooperative Education (818) 947-2334 <http://www.lavc.edu/Cooped/sumsession.htm>

Think Transfer!

Fall 2008 UC and CSU priority transfer application deadline is November 30. Apply on line at [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/apply) or [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)

Guarantee your admission to a UC by participating in a UC Transfer Admission Guarantee Program. For program information, qualifications and applications visit the Career/Transfer Center, Adm. 126, or call (818) 947-2646. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center. All events held in the Career/Transfer Center unless otherwise indicated. Call (818) 947-2646 for further information.

Tuesday, June 3

Resume Writing and Interview Skills Workshop 2:30-2:30 in the Career/Transfer Center

Additional content online - Go to [www.lavalleystar.com](http://www.lavalleystar.com)

Valley Travel

Fish Tacos and Water Skiing at Castaic

ELIZEDA BELTRAN  
STAFF WRITER

While hundreds of people flutter to the waters of Santa Monica during summer, in tiny bikinis to take in the ultraviolet rays, you can consider not following the crowd and go for a different type of summer experience at Castaic Lake.

The man-made lake offers visitors diverse spots for fishing, boating, camping and picnicking.

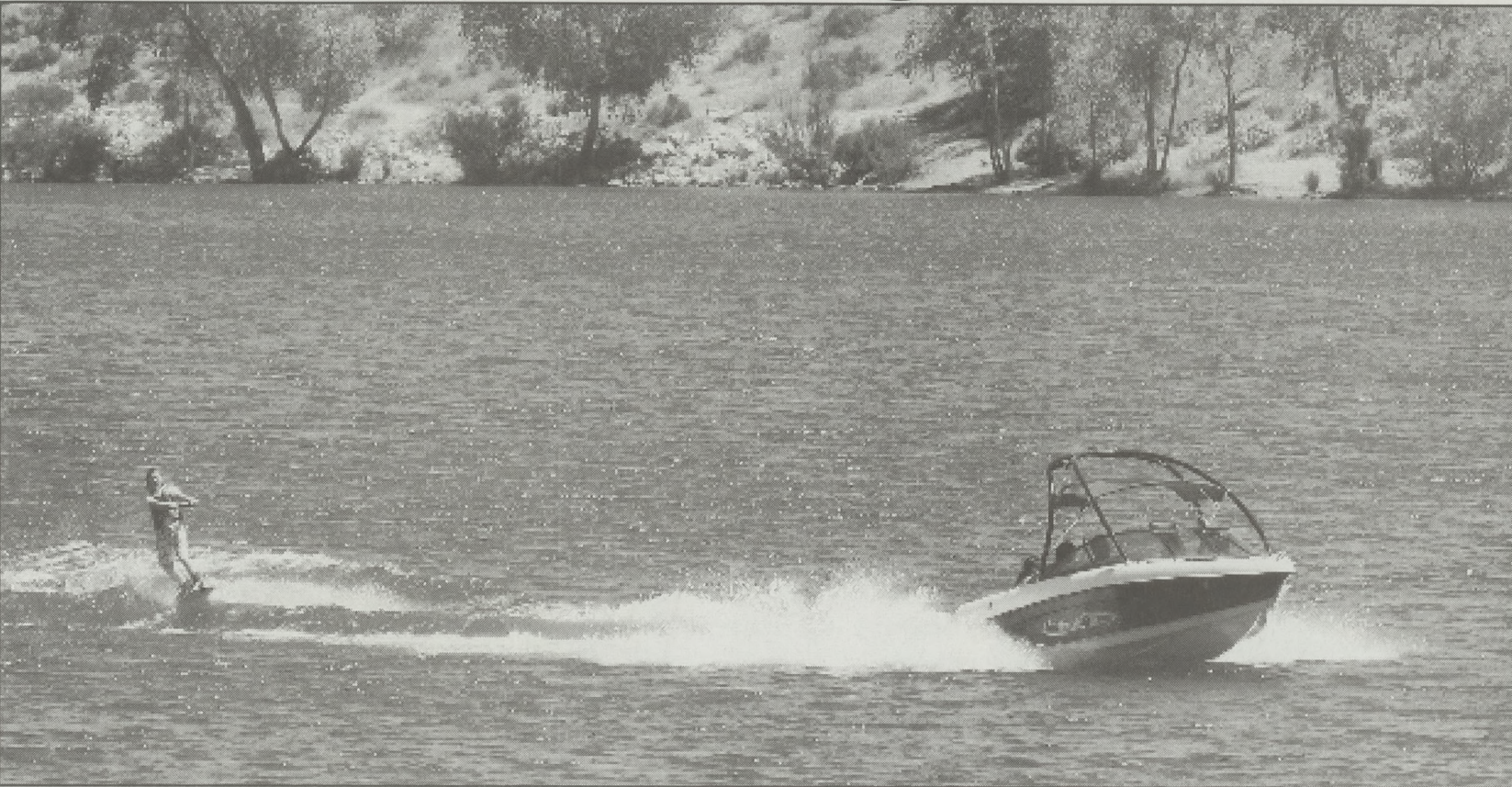
I bought my \$11 parking ticket and pulled into the upper lake parking lot, where the 29-mile shoreline glistened in the sun. The opposite side, the lower lake, is restricted to rowing, and swimming under the supervision of a lifeguard.

As I trailed down to the murky waters of the dam, past boulders and little shade to protect me from the violent hands of the sun, I realized that there were no rentals for fishing equipment.

Luckily, there's a gas station doubling as a tackle store just three blocks away, where you can buy all the necessary fishing equipment. But no boat rentals anywhere near, so bring your own.

After my quick expedition, I climbed down to the dock and waited for my companion to insert a worm on the hook, when a lifeguard boat approached the landing. I was told by Jonathan Cardenas, the lifeguard, that fishing from the quay is prohibited, but any other places are fine.

Before he descended onto the dock, I asked him for a few fish-



HAVING FUN IN THE SUN - Water skiing is one of the pastimes you can indulge at Castaic Lake which is located north of Los Angeles near the Magic Mountain Amusement Park in Valencia..

ing tips. He told me that the best time to come is in the morning and when the sun starts to set; apparently, fish are not big on lunch.

The water is abundant with largemouth bass, some weighing 20 pounds; striper; sea bass and catfish. He told me the largemouth bass population has dwindled with the presence of the aggressive sea bass.

"But people are not really complaining too much because sea

bass make excellent fish tacos; it's not even funny," Cardenas said. "The tacos are so delicious, people are just like ah! ... It's funny how those guys make all kinds of things out of them. They'll have fish taco omelet in the morning, fish taco salad, and for dinner fish tacos, they're delicious."

I headed to the banks, hoping to build a fortune selling sea bass tacos. And with plenty of picnic tables and barbecue grills along the path, cooking them wouldn't

be a problem, but I was in no luck. The only tug I felt was that of seaweed caught in my bait.

From a glance, I was able to see a congregation of anglers sitting on a ramp, and decided to join them, hoping that would change my luck.

My aims were futile. But my neighbor, Daniel Silva, a regular at the lake, let me know that he had not caught anything in the whole day, which relieved my embarrassment at my poor attempts at

becoming a trout hunter.

Before leaving, Silva's line sat still in the water. It was there that I realized fishing was beyond me, and any hopes of joining the upcoming Team Bass Tournament on May 24 had to be abandoned.

Perhaps I could practice a little more if I camped for the night, but I didn't have \$18 fee, so I headed back to my car.

PAUL OLDEN PHOTO EDITOR VALLEY STAR



JONATHAN GIBBY ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR/ VALLEY STAR

KRUSTY LAND OPENS DOORS – Patrons of Universal Studios Hollywood can now experience The Simpsons Ride, which opened on Monday.

Welcome to Krustyland

JAMES BENNETT  
OPINION EDITOR

After 19 seasons and 420 episodes, Springfield comes to Hollywood on The Simpsons Ride. The six-minute simulator adventure features 29 authentically-voiced Simpsons characters and enough bumps, shakes, pitches and yaws to satisfy even the most hardened amusement seekers.

Without giving away too many spoilers, the premise is appropriately predictable. Inevitable antagonist Sideshow Bob chases riders, and the Simpsons through the sufficiently dilapidated Krustyland; tumbling out of control and eventually out of the park while encountering a slew of classic Simpsons characters.

Located within the smoldering ruins of the now-defunct "Back to the Future" ride at Universal Studios Hollywood, the attraction itself makes good use of impressive technology. The ride employs computer generated 3D graphics to reify virtual Springfield, faithfully drawn and stylized by Film Roman, the same studio that creates the television series. The music, composed by Jim Dooley fits the franchise nicely. Previously, Dooley worked with composer Hanz Zimmer on "The Simpsons Movie."

The screens consist of two 80-by-85-foot domes, illuminated by custom-made projectors that stream images at 60 frames per second (as opposed to the usual 24) through a custom-made

fish-eye lens. Equipped with a Dolby 6.1 sound system in each car and 90 speakers in each room, the ride grants upon patrons an unparalleled aural experience, delivering crisp and immersive audio to riders.

The ride strives to entertain from start to finish; the queue is laden with television screens blasting theme-park related Simpsons clips from the moment you enter Krusty's gaping maw at the beginning of the line. Even the rider safety video is moderately entertaining, showcasing the most violent anthropomorphic duo in the solar system, Itchy and Scratchy.

Like all simulator experiences, The Simpsons Ride isn't flawless. It suffers from the same maladies as its forsaken predecessor Back to the Future; a visible mechanical frame around the bottom of the vehicle, an obvious lack of G-Force, and rather hokey mist and water effects. While their efforts to bring riders into their virtual world is certainly noble, the simulator medium is so inherently limited, it's hard to overlook the ride's shortcomings.

Overall, it's a fun ride. Universal Studios Hollywood lays in wait just down the block, waiting to sucker unwitting Valley students into purchasing \$8 churros and billion dollar burgers. Take one of your no-class Fridays, slather on the sun block, grab a hat and roll on over the Universal. Join the Simpsons in their living room; it's way more fun than waiting for them to come to yours. (Plus their TV is a lot bigger.)

Densmore Performs "Tribal Jazz"

SCOTT MITCHELL  
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

John Densmore, iconic rock and roll drummer with the legendary Doors, captivated Los Angeles audiences with his highly-anticipated jazz creation titled, "TribalJazz."

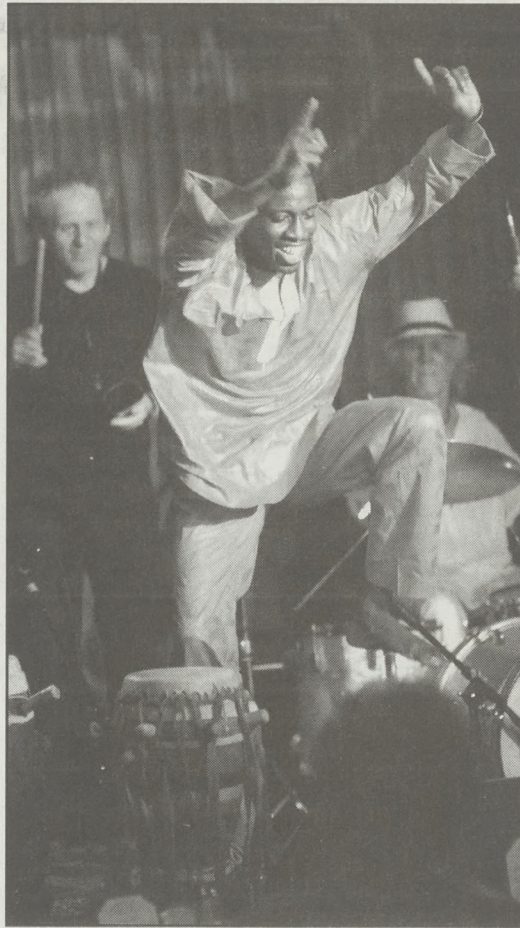
Well before Densmore rose to fame as the drummer for the Doors, he fell in love with jazz. As a teenager, he used to sneak in to clubs to see and meet the jazz masters of the day.

This innate love for the genre finally came to fruition after 40 years, with the help of creative collaborator, Art Ellis. The result is a musical tapestry that warrants listening to again and again. By the end of each set, Densmore and company had the audience standing, clapping and dancing in the aisles.

Describing music to someone who has not heard it is like describing the way food tastes. It really cannot be done effectively. Having said that, "TribalJazz" is like food for the soul. The music, the feeling, and the message are of healing and celebration. Densmore's creation and musical vision is bold. Bring the world together. Recognize that we are all connected. Celebrate our diversity and celebrate our common threads.

The music is easy to get behind. Easy listening without falling asleep with beautiful melodies and rhythms and great pacing. The sounds of Art Ellis's flute and saxophone are present in almost all of the tunes. Let's not

see Concert page 5



SCOTT MITCHELL/ VALLEY STAR

TRIBALJAZZ CAPTIVATES AUDIENCES-John Densmore, iconic drummer for the legendary rock band the Doors, delighted audiences at the Catalina Jazz Club in Hollywood with his debut jazz excursion which is appropriately titled, "TribalJazz."

Critics Corner

Games Garner Greenbacks

■ As the movie industry plummets, the video game industry rises. A look at the polymorphic entertainment landscape and the death of the silver screen.

JAMES BENNETT  
OPINION EDITOR

Back in 1927, Al Jolson, star of "The Jazz Singer" uttered the first words to ever grace the silver screen, "Wait a minute, wait a minute, you ain't heard nothin' yet." Those fateful words mark the dawn of the "talkie," or sync-sound film. The advent of the "talkie" instigated the rapid demise of the silent era.

Fifty eight years later, an overweight, mute Italian named Mario fireballed his way into America's living rooms. In 2008, 23 years after his inception, an older, more mature Mario, along with all his digital brethren are doing to the "talkie" what the "talkie" did to Charlie Chaplin.

"Iron Man" the movie is going to get killed by 'Grand Theft Auto,' the game," said John Riccitiello, Electronics Arts CEO in an interview with the Financial Times. "I don't think I've ever heard of that before." Grand Theft Auto didn't kill Iron Man; it obliterated Iron Man. Tony Stark's impenetrable suit, with all its jet boots and shine, failed in its most important mission: box office revenue.

According to the Los Angeles Times, "Iron Man" managed to squeeze an estimated \$201 million out of domestic and international audiences during its opening weekend. "Grand Theft Auto IV" more than doubled that, pulling in \$500 million throughout North America and Europe in a similar time span.

see Critics page 5



Student Glimpses at Future

■ Valley College student gets a first-person view at her potential career, riding with Cole-Schaefer Ambulance.

PAUL OLDEN  
PHOTO EDITOR

Looking every bit of the professional she soon hopes to be, 19-year-old Valley College student Brittney Martinez spent the first few minutes of her visit to the Cole-Schaefer ambulance service office in Altadena apologizing. An ill-timed breakdown of her truck on the Hollywood freeway while en route to what was to be her first 'ride-along' with the emergency medical technicians was the reason for her being about 30 minutes late.

But Martinez's mea culpa was cut short because she and the guys had to answer a call at a nearby nursing home to transport elderly women to the hospital for shortness of breath.

"It was lights and sirens ... my heart was pounding," Martinez said, recalling the ambulance ride. "I was really excited because I didn't know what to expect."

The trip to the Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena took about 15 minutes.

Martinez was squeezed into the cramped quarters of the ambulance with the patient and EMT Andrew White. By the time they reached the hospital, Martinez had calmed down.

"I got to listen to the emergency medical technician and the doctors and how they dealt with everything," she said.

It was good practice for Martinez who wants to be an emergency room tech after she

finishes her studies.

"I like the hospital setting more ... I want to help people and this will get me in the medical field," she said.

This is the kind of first hand training the Valley College EMT program provides according to Fire Technology department chairman Alan Cowen.

"The ride-along is an integral part of the class where students in here get to go out and take vital signs on real patients and examine them under the supervision of the EMTs," Cowen said.

And because of the demand in the industry, Valley EMT graduates can have their pick of possible jobs.

"You're gonna get hired in an emergency room, an ambulance on the street or on a Hollywood set," Cowen says

The class is 128 hours long and leads to certification as an EMT, which is a necessary prelude to becoming a firefighter or paramedic.

The training provided by Valley College could result in an impressive starting salary.

"They can make \$40,000 to \$50,000 a year if they want to work a lot just by taking this one class," Cowen added while cautioning that the course of study is intense and not easy.

Martinez's immediate concern this day was learning how to handle a 50-pound gurney. And



COMFORTABLE? - Valley College emergency medical technician (EMT) student Brittney Martinez, 19, is strapped to an ambulance gurney at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, May 9, in an exercise to show her how a real patient feels when placed on the device.

that's where White's expertise was on display. She paid close attention to the details of the proper way to load and unload a gurney from the back of an ambulance.

At the urging of White and other onlookers, Martinez agreed to be strapped down to a backboard while wearing a neck brace as if she was hurt and needed to be taken to a hospital.

"This is very new to me," she said of the experience. "It's very uncomfortable when you're the one being put on a backboard ... you really have no control."

Martinez brought some previous experience to her gurney

practice.

Two months ago she was taken to a hospital by ambulance after rolling her truck on the freeway.

"I don't remember much," she said. "I know they used the jaws-of-life to get me out."

Martinez suffered just a few bruises, but she learned that an EMT's job is not just treating obvious injuries.

"The medical people talked to me and they were so nice to me," she said, "it was very comforting."

And according to White, much of the job requires a soothing verbal touch.

"That's about 75 percent of the job, just talking to the patient and keeping them calm," he said

The life of an EMT can be hurry-up and wait because of the unpredictable nature of emergency calls.

But Martinez with on hand, no sooner did the Cole-Schaefer crew return to their Altadena office, than another call came in. The Altadena Fire Department needed assistance and off they went.

"You have to have a lot of compassion for people and just want to help," Martinez said of being an EMT. "I'm very excited about what's to come."

'Concert'

Continued from page 4

forget the African drums and the Brazilian rhythm section. "TribalJazz" has authentic tribal roots and flavor.

Aziz Faye, percussion, from Senegal, Africa makes his own drums and drum sticks. Lula, from Bahia, Brazil, plays a wide array of percussion and indigenous instruments. Marcel Adjibi, from Africa, via France, is on congas as well as a soft drum that he held under his arm and squeezed. Osama Afifi, from Egypt on stand up bass. Quinn Johnson on piano, Art Ellis on soprano sax, alto sax, and flute. John Densmore on drums and percussion.

Highlights of the sets included an instrumental version of the Doors classic song, "Riders on the Storm," a catchy and poetic tribute to John Coltrane; a salute to Miles Davis; the "Tribal version" of the Police hit, "Wrapped Around Your Finger," as well as a Steely Dan cover.

Densmore and Ellis already have plans for a follow up to "TribalJazz." The talented group of musicians will be performing on May 25 at the UCLA Jazz Festival. For more information on John Densmore and "TribalJazz," check out johndensmore.com, tribaljazz.com, or hiddenbeach.com.

Orchestra Hams Up Final Performance



MUSICAL STORIES - Michael H. Arshagouni conducts the Philharmonic Choir during their performance entitled Fun, Fables & Fairy Tales, putting music to classic fairy tales on Sunday.

JONATHAN GIBBY  
ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR

The Mainstage Theatre echoed with the sounds of violins, singing voices and readings from the "Three Little Pigs" on Sunday.

The College Choir, Philharmonic and Vocal Jazz Ensemble collaborated for their presentation entitled "Fun, Fables & Fairy Tales." This performance

mixed the delicate sounds familiar to classical and jazz music with the fairy tales we all love and know. "Calling all cars, calling all cars, be on the look out for three little pigs!" said Cathy Pyles, narrator of the event, introducing the audience to a Vocal Jazz song about a trio of troubled pigs.

In the song "Into the Woods," Melanie

Hernandez stood onstage, draped with a red hood for the Choir and Vocal Jazz Ensemble's rendition of Little Red Riding Hood.

This benefit concert aimed to raise money for the Choral Department and keep live performances like this recurring and consistent on campus. The proceeds from tickets and merchandise went directly to the department.

'PatriotS Act...PEACE PRESS' Takes Show On The Road

JOSH SPENCE  
VALLEY LIFE EDITOR

Valley College's Media Arts Department's award winning documentary "PatriotS Act...PEACE PRESS: the People's Printing Collective" has been made an official selection of the first annual International Film Festival England.

After participating in numerous film festivals and winning 16 recognitions in its 2006- 2007 film festival run throughout the United States and Canada, this selection will be the first for the documentary overseas.

A selection is made when the submitted film qualifies to be presented in the festival.

The documentary explores the history of the Peace Press, a unique Los Angeles

institution from 1967-87 that made its start printing materials protesting the Vietnam War. It printed anything and everything that was "alternative press" and worked with such icons as the Black Panther Party, United Farm Workers, American Indian Movement and Timothy Leary.

The festival is organized by the Academy of Media, Recording, Interactive, Television & Stage Arts and is being played at the Dylan Thomas Centre in the heart of London.

Valley film Professor Joseph Daccurso is happy with the selection, not only because of the recognition for the film, but for the students involved.

"This further adds to the credibility and validity of our industry and portfolio - giving us further cache as professional filmmakers."

While AMRITSA praised the film for taking a fresh take on global issues while maintaining an American perspective, Daccurso believes the film works on multiple levels.

"One, students apply their work to their real world. Two, is the artistic endeavor of it," Daccurso said. "This documentary was not submitted as a student piece, which would've won more awards and three, the message of the film, which is homage to the baby boomers and the students attending Valley College through the 60s, 70s, and 80s."

Daccurso further adds, "The subject is still fresh. A lot of the tools have changed, but not the approach of telling a story and these stories are still relevant today."

The First Annual International Film Festival England will premiere June 9.

'Critics'

Continued from page 4

In September 2007, "Halo 3" raked in \$300 million in its first week. That same week, "Halloween" slashed its way to \$26 million at the box office; a far cry from its smaller-screened, clackey-controller counterpart.

Two months ago, Nintendo's "Super Smash Bros. Brawl" grossed \$77 million during its first week of release, smashing that week's box-office mammoth, "10,000 B.C." by a \$37 million margin.

Big cinema doesn't get it. Rob Moore, Vice Chairman of Paramount was quoted by EW.com saying, "It's crazy to think that young males can't carve out two hours for 'Iron Man,'" the problem with his logic is simple, it's not that young males can't carve out two hours, but that we don't want to.

The movie industry needs to take a few hints from the video game industry, most importantly, fan interaction. Filmmakers seem to take a perverse pleasure in forsaking loyal fans; from giving Optimus Prime lips and saying "my bad" in the Transformers movie, to giving Batman ridiculous foam rubber nipplesuits. They've got to change their ways and make use of their focus groups.

"Unfortunately, there are some things that are requested by several different fans that we aren't able to do just yet," said Atari producer Donny Clay, regarding future installments of the "Dragonball Z Budokai Tenkaichi" game franchise. "I would love to do [them] as well, we just haven't had the chance to get this into a game yet. Don't worry though, I won't forget."

As long as they don't forget us, we won't forget them. Neither will our wallets.

TOP 5  
STORIES  
@ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

Ronaldo's Tranny Trouble  
By Astrid Seipelt

Sustainability Speech Falls On Deaf Ears  
By Elizeda Belran

LAPD Perpetuates Profiling  
By Brad Taylor

Trojans Should've Held the Mayo After All  
By Eric Patten

Club Psyched Out of Logo  
By Astrid Seipelt

WHAT'S  
NEW  
@ LAVALLEYSTAR.COM

Summer Job Tips  
By Sheila Koochak

Valley Symphony Performs  
By James Bennett

LAValleyStarWebcast  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/LAValleyStarWebcast>

UPCOMING RELEASES  
CD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



LES SAVVY FAV.  
AFTER THE  
BALLS DROP

OTHER RELEASES:

Matmos, Supreme Balloons  
See You in Magic, The Night Marchers  
Craig David, Trust Me  
James McMurtry, Just Us Kids

DVD

PICK OF THE WEEK:



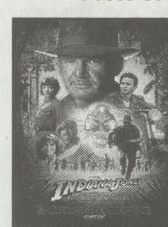
NATIONAL  
TREASURE:  
BOOK OF  
SECRETS

OTHER RELEASES:

Diary of the Dead  
Strange Wilderness  
First Sunday  
I'm Not There

FILM

PICK OF THE WEEK:



INDIANA  
JONES AND  
THE KINGDOM  
OF THE  
CRYSTAL  
SKULL

UPCOMING RELEASES:

War Inc., John Cusack  
Sex and the City, Sarah Jessica Parker

CONCERT

PICK OF THE WEEK:

FLOBOTS  
@ THE  
TROBADOIR

FOXBORO  
HOTTUBS  
@ ALEX'S BAR

OTHER PERFORMANCES:

The Cure @ The Shrine Auditorium  
The Cure @ The Hollywood Bowl  
STP @ The Hollywood Bowl

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FORGET  
TO  
YouTube

How to build a Wii in 10 minutes  
How to create a Hi-Def speaker  
Text Message Breakup  
How to Irrigate Your Nasal Passage

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## SPORTS

6

## Diver Tiffanie Wright Wins Through Perseverance

■ Student athlete divides time between work, pool and class.

By SHANNON MCHUGH  
STAFF WRITER

It takes a special student to deal with the constant pressure to be active in the community, at work, in sports, and still do well in school. Valley's silver-medalist diver, Tiffanie Wright, is a portrait of that kind of student.

Wright has a task that many Valley College students have; she has to balance her job as a swim instructor at the YMCA, her diving career, and her sophomore year of studying business, all while trying to be a 20 year old with a social life.

"It's hard to find time to do much else when I'm working full time, going to school full time and diving," Wright explained. "My boyfriend hardly even gets to see

me, which is hard, but you gotta do what you gotta do, right?"

While divvying up her responsibilities takes a toll on her, it is hard to notice any of it as she climbs up the steep ladders, walks down the diving board, jumps into the air and curls her body into three somersaults before she lands in the water beneath her with graceful effortlessness.

She has numerous accolades under her belt, including winning the Amateur Athletic Union Nationals in 2006 for the 1-meter dive.

"Tiffanie has been a great part of our program this year," said head coach Jim McMillan. "She's one of our top divers and an excellent student athlete, and we couldn't be more proud to have her as part of the team."

Wright's accreditation goes far beyond the thoughts of her coaches, as her two first-place wins, both in the 1-meter and 3-meter dive at the Southern California Diving Championship at El Camino, and her two second-place finishes in diving at the state championship confirm.

"I got second place by a 400th of a point," she said with a bit of frustration in her voice, "but I dove the meet of my life, so I feel okay about it. I just wish it hadn't happened in my sophomore year, so I could have tried again."

Her perseverance and dedication to the sport makes her the excellent athlete that she is. She is also influenced by the actions of others, both on the Valley team and away from campus; in that they provide her with the competition to keep her succeeding.

"We did have a pretty close team," she said. "We all push each



PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

**THE WRIGHT STUFF** - Valley College diver Tiffanie Wright was recently named the Western State Conference Female Athlete of the Year for swimming and diving.

other and that competition made us stronger. Gene [Williams, fellow diver] and I have always had a friendly inside competition between us. At meets, we focus on the meets and not the places, so if I beat him in a meet, he'll buy me lunch and vice versa."

She not only gives credit to fellow teammates for their encouragement, but also to her diving coach and mother, Ann Wright.

"Diving is a mental sport, more so than physical," she said. "If we are going for something and we don't think we can do it, she has to get in our heads and make us see that we can do it. She [Ann] would

never make us do something that we can't do."

Tiffanie Wright affirms that the key to a successful diving career is the ability to sustain mental control, because without it, a dive can lose its effectiveness.

**"I think my biggest strength is that I have a lot of mental control."**

- Tiffanie Wright

lot of experience with it all."

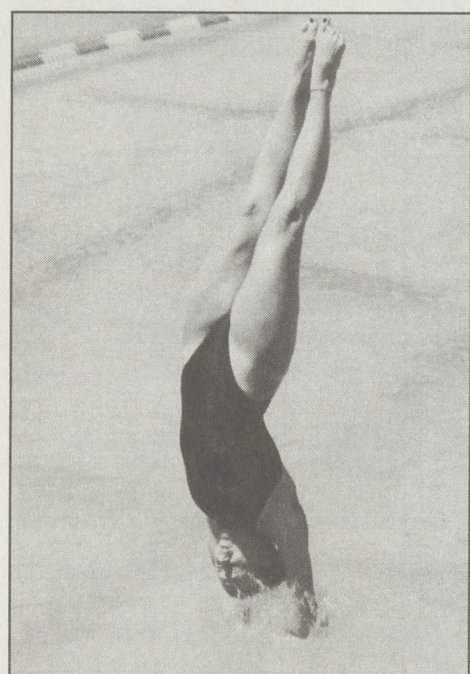
Her experience has paid off this year, and will continue to do so as she leaves Valley to pursue her degree in business at UC-Santa Barbara, though she is waiting to hear about any potential recruit-

ment options.

"I am planning to go to Santa Barbara City College and then transfer to UCSB," Wright said, "but they only have an independent diving team. If I get recruited anywhere it would probably be the University of Hawaii, Irvine, San Diego, or Channel Islands. If that happens, I may change my thoughts about Santa Barbara."

Though her academic time at Valley is ending, Wright said she most likely will be back to see the new pool in all its glory next season, along with her mother. Those who have supported her all year, though, see her truly going places.

"She really is great," McMillan affirms. "And I can't wait to see her diving at the next level soon."



PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

**DIVING FOR MEDALS** - Wright took silver in the 1-meter and broze in the 3-meter events at the state championships on May 2.

## Valley Athletic Hall of Fame Class 2008

## Inductee

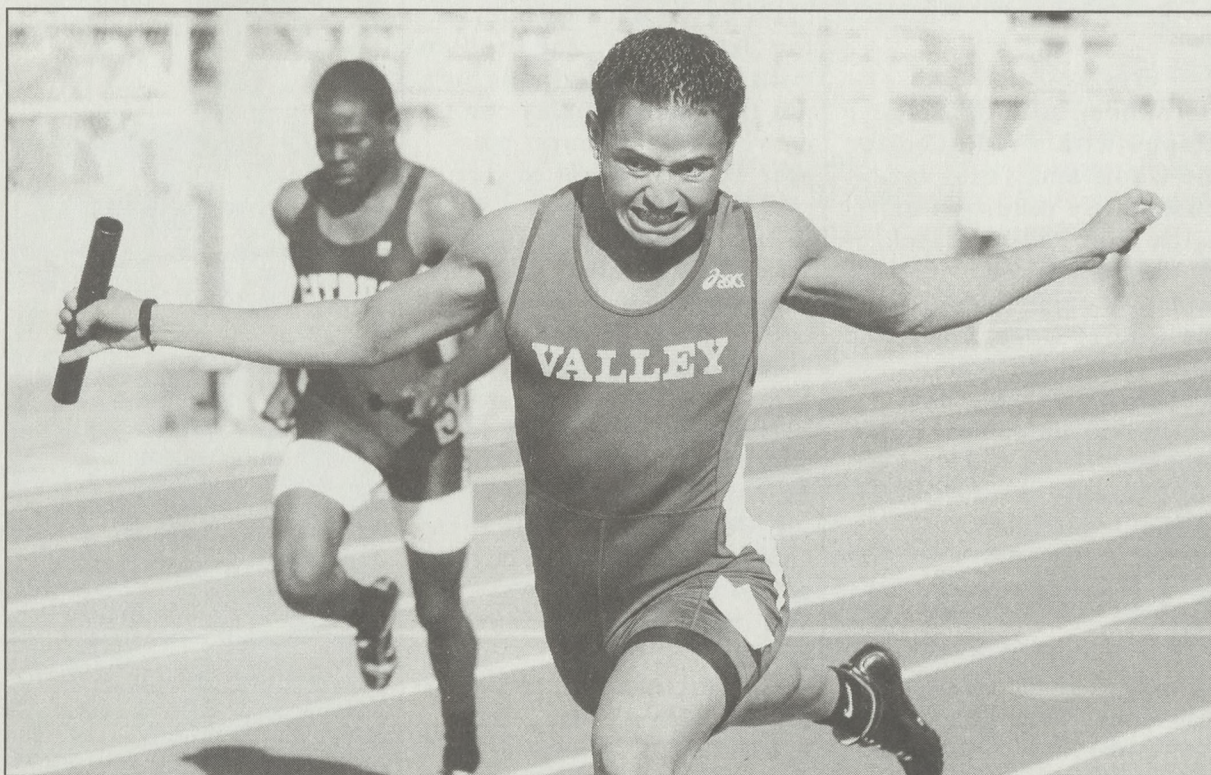
1975 Football  
1975-76 Women's Basketball  
Melanie Clark (Track)  
Sue Gossick (Diving)  
David Summers (Multi-sport)  
Lazlo Tabori (Track / Cross Country)  
Richard Windham (Football / Baseball)  
Eric Yarber (Football)

## Highlights

*Metro Conference Champions, No. 2 National Ranking*  
*Southern California State Champions*  
*Two-time State Heptathlon Champion ('90-91)*  
*1968 Olympic Gold Medalist, 1967 L.A. Times Woman of the Year*  
*Lettered in six varsity sports, tennis captain*  
*Coached seven national title holders ('67-74), 1956 Olympian*  
*All-Metro running back, Metro Player of the Year (centerfield)*  
*Community College All-American, 1988 Super Bowl Champion*

The Valley Athletic Hall of Fame is located in the Fireside Room inside Monarch Hall. The inaugural class was inducted in 2007.

## Right Side of the Track



PAUL OLDEN / VALLEY STAR

**ONE AND ONLY** - Despite featuring an award-winning track, Valley College staged only one home meet this season. Fredy Santizo anchored them in an early season 4 x 100 meter relay victory for the Monarchs March 7. The track team competed in the state finals May 16-17 at Cerritos College, where sprinter Mekka Edwards-White captured the 800-meter title. Edwards-White recorded the fastest times in prelims (2:14.43) and finals (2:15.44).

## 2008 FALL SPORTS SCHEDULE

## WOMEN'S SOCCER

STARTING  
FIVE

8.22 (Fri) vs Moorpark (Scrimmage) 4:00 p.m.  
8.30 (Sat) @ Oxnard College (Sea Breeze Tournament) TBA  
9.3 (Wed) @ San Diego City College 4:00 p.m.  
9.6 (Sat) @ Willams Jessup University 12:00 p.m.  
9.9 (Tue) vs East Los Angeles College 4:00 p.m.

## Opinion:

## Lakers Own Five Advantages Over NBA's Playoff Elite

By ERIC L. PATTEN  
SPORTS EDITOR

Admittedly, I am a Laker-hater, which makes these next few admissions more painful than watching Bret Michaels find true love while pretending he doesn't have a receding hairline.

After witnessing two rounds of NBA playoff match-ups, the Lakers are best suited to win the title. And it's not because they are the postseason's hottest team, but because they have five distinct advantages over everyone else.

**1. The Kobe Factor.** One sentence should do it: Bryant's the MVP and the best player in the last decade.

**2. Phil Jackson.** The argument against Jackson, who's gunning for his record 10th title, is that he's only won with stars. Coaching the likes of Michael Jordan, Scottie Pippen, Shaquille O'Neal and Bryant has likely cost him a coach-of-the-year trophy (an award he's been robbed of at least twice) and his value is too often underestimated.

After tumult ruled the Laker off-season, Jackson performed yeoman's work. He revamped and mediated his relationship with Bryant, which was supposedly fractured after Jackson's tell-all book in 2004 said that his superstar guard was "uncoachable." He utilized younger players, a choice he has avoided in the past, when "did not play-coach's decision" was a common box score stat for first round rookies Kareem Rush and Andrew Bynum. And he consistently adapted game plans to deal with injuries and incorporate Pau Gasol, acquired in early February.

But more important than Jackson's ability to manage players and game situations, is his ability to control the flow of the game from the sideline. He uncannily allows his team to play through offensive runs by their opponents and influences calls from officials.

In the Lakers' previous three championships this decade, Jackson used the media to communicate his frustration with the defensive tactics teams were using against O'Neal. Because of this aura of respect, tactful complaining and the way he calmly paces the Lakers' bench, officials seem to give the team a subconscious benefit of the doubt. Even the slightest tilt of Jackson's bushy, gray eyebrows can sometimes make the difference.

## Even the slightest tilt of Jackson's bushy, gray eyebrows can sometimes make the difference

**3. Three-point shooting.** The Lakers boast the ability to surround its post players (Gasol) and Bryant with an arsenal of Sasha Vujacic, Derek Fisher and Vladimir Radmanovic. In addition, Luke Walton and Jordan Farmar are capable options.

But unlike other teams like Phoenix or Denver that shoot a high percentage from behind the arc, the Lakers do not rely on it to win.

With the exception of Farmar, the other four role players hardly seem rattled by misses. Against Golden State in March, Vujacic fired 18 three balls, making four, but his confidence was never shaken—at least, he never showed it.

The same can be said of Fisher, the team's gritty leader on the floor, who is shooting 59 percent from three with nearly two makes per game.

**4. Lamar Odom.** Among Odom's best qualities, he can do anything he wants on the court, making him a match-up nightmare. He's rangy, can dribble the ball into the frontcourt, rebound (10.7 per game in the playoffs), pass, defend and shoot from most areas on the floor.

Against Utah, he was impossible to guard. Jazz coach Jerry Sloan used Mehmet Okur, Andrei Kirilenko and Carlos Boozer at various times to halt him. During Game Five's TNT broadcast, analyst Doug Collins said Okur and Boozer were too slow to keep up and Kirilenko's priority was to stop Bryant, not Odom.

He's unique and the Spurs have no defensive answer for him.

**5. Staples Center.** While it doesn't offer the nostalgic advantage of the Inglewood Forum, the 2001 Pollstar Magazine Arena of the Year does give the Lakers an unseen edge.

The Jazz clearly seemed frazzled as visitors, committing 41 turnovers in three games.

Jackson has said that Staples does not offer a great home-court advantage because teams from the East see it twice a year (against the Lakers and Clippers).

However, the fans have roared louder than ever. The team dims the house lights in the stands to generate a feeling of eventfulness on the court. It is Los Angeles; perhaps the easiest, and most glamorous, place to get distracted off the court.

Oh yeah, there are also those 14 championship banners dangling from the building's western corner.



# NEWS

7

## 'Credit'

continued from page 1

Ventura, Oxnard and Moorpark colleges.

"The cafeteria, which is under contract to the college by ISSI, was notified by the college of the issue and has subsequently made adjustments to their credit card service machine," Vice President of Administrative Services Tom Jacobsmeier said in

an email. "The college and the cafeteria have received only one call regarding this issue."

Raul Gonzalez, assistant vice president of admission services, said the problem had been solved with a software update and the cafeteria was now in compliance with California law. Students concerned about the protection of their identity should check with their credit card agencies and banks to ensure the security of their accounts.

## 'Scholarship'

continued from page 2

The highlight of the night came at the end of the event when English Department Chair Alfred Zucker presented students Derreck Bourdon and Prince Prabhakar with Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team Awards. Fifty students are selected for this award each year by the state legislature and Gov. Schwarzenegger.

It was also announced that while Prabhakar received the award in Sacramento earlier this year, he was accepted to medical school right from

junior college.

"It was exhilarating; my heart was pounding the entire way up there, of course," said Prabhakar as he sat with his family at the end of the program. I didn't realize [Zucker] was actually going to make a speech about it."

Raul Castillo, executive director of the LAVC Foundation was pleased with the event.

"It so great to see so many students receiving scholarships," he said. "I'm an alumni of Valley College, and I applied for six scholarships back in my time and I got nothing... And I always encourage those who didn't receive a scholarship, and did apply... to keep doing it."

## 'Sheriff'

continued from page 1

filed against Lynch by a Valley student. The sheriff's internal investigation concluded that Lynch was guilty of no wrongdoing, but that his actions "could have been better."

The incident prompted Valley President Tyree Wieder to write a letter to the Valley Star stating that racial profiling "would not be tolerated." Wieder said she spoke with Baker and that he knows what is considered acceptable behavior.

"We talked about what's important on this campus," Wieder said. "I'm sure he's aware of what's important for our students and our college community."

In the past, students had complained about difficulty interacting with the school police. Baker said that he is encouraging his staff to be friendly with students and faculty.

He also plans to improve the relationship between students and his staff by publicizing the sheriff's escort services.

"If people don't feel safe walking to their classes or cars, they can give us a call or if they see us, flag us down and we'll be glad to provide escorts," Baker said. "We're stepping up our efforts, because we want the students and staff to know we do that."

Baker's been in law enforcement for 12 years, including working at the sheriff department's Community College Bureau.

## 'ASU'

continued from page 1

Committee, the person submitting the request must state how the money will benefit the student body of the college. Yasmin Delahoussaye, vice president of student services, signed the budget request and says that while she understands why Wible may have concerns about where the ASU funds are going, the money will be coming back to the students.

"[Wieder's retirement gala is] a huge fundraiser for student scholarships," Delahoussaye said. "At the end of the evening, we are going to present her with all the money that has been raised for student scholarships, and the scholarships will be in her name. I never thought that anyone would raise this concern, just knowing how much she has done for the students.... That \$4,000 is going to pale in comparison to the amount of money that's raised."

The Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor's Office administrative regulations states that ASU funds are to be "expended in such a way as to benefit the current and long-term interest of students."

Outgoing president Mari Kiridjian stands by the ASU's decision to donate the money, saying that their contribution to Wieder's retirement is a benefit to the students because Wieder has given so much to the Valley community during her presidency.

"I don't see it as a party... We were going to have something for her anyway," Kiridjian said. "I'm not giving students' money to a party... A

executive assistant, says she will miss working for the energetic and dedicated president.

"She's fabulous. She is always available, always friendly, even if you don't have an appointment," Lopez said. "I admire her because she does so much... She is fair but assertive, and those are the qualities of a college president."

Wieder grew up in Los Angeles and attended Compton College. She then earned her bachelor's degree in sociology and her master's in educational psychology from Cal State Northridge. She then went on to earn her Ph.D. in higher education from UCLA.

She attributes her career choice to her community college experience, which inspired her to keep working toward her goals.

"I would not have gone to college if not for Compton," she said. "When I finished at

decision was made, and if anyone had any oppositions to that, they were more than welcome to come [to the ASU meetings]."

Wible said that he does not understand how this amount was donated to a retirement party when services on campus, such as the Writing Center and Math Lab are having their hours cut because of reduced funding.

"The ASU has certain guidelines to follow about what they can and can't spend their funds on and this does not seem as if it falls within those parameters," Wible said. "This spending of money does not benefit the students immediate or long-term interests... I don't understand how it could have went through, or how nobody threw a flag up when it happened."

Delahoussaye says that the donation of the ASU funds will benefit the students because of all the scholarship money that will be raised. She also said it is hard to tell how much of the donated funds will be used and it may be that all the money is unused and goes to the scholarship fund.

"I think what is happening is maybe [Wible] doesn't understand the full mechanics of it. Delahoussaye said. "He may not understand that whenever we do something at Valley, we do it with the students' interests at heart."

The vice president of student services, who is heading the committee to plan the retirement gala, echoed the words of Mari Kiridjian, saying that the ASU funds were not just being spent without thought.

"Since [Wieder] has been here, 14 years ago, we weren't handing out any scholarships, and the endowment has grown," she said. "At the end of the day, this is all going to come back to the students."

## 'Wieder'

continued from page 1

"I enjoy cooking, especially holiday cooking. We have several family events at my house every year... I go all out and I spend a couple of days preparing and cooking," said Wieder, who loves it when her whole family gathers at her home to eat. "Passover, I like to cook matzo ball soup, brisket... New Year's Day, we have ribs and greens and black-eyed peas... You have to have greens to have money for the year and you have black-eyed peas for good luck."

The luck of the black-eyed peas rubbed off on Wieder in 1990, when began working at Valley as the vice president of academic affairs. She was named president of the college in April 1994.

Magdalena Lopez, Wieder's

CSUN, I knew that I wanted to help people.

She met her husband Les at Moorpark College, where she began working in 1974, as a counselor for the Theatre and Performing Arts Department.

"He was a new hire... Now, we are coming up on our 28th anniversary," she said, pointing to two photos of her husband and their daughter Shavonne.

Along with her husband and daughter, Wieder says she has much planned after her retirement, including several trips during the second half of the year.

"Our family has one main goal—let Tyree relax," Shavonne said. "She's been 'on' for too many years. I think the first thing we are going to do as a family is let her do nothing and love every minute of it."

For a video interview with Wieder, visit [lavalleystar.com](http://lavalleystar.com).

## 'Marriage'

continued from page 3

Ron Prentice, executive director of the California Family Council. "The will of the people has been completely undermined by four individuals. In November, the people will have an opportunity to overrule the court's decision by passing a constitutional amendment—and California's voters must respond by voting."

### CORRECTIONS

Due to an editing error last issue, Barack Obama's name was spelled incorrectly in the piece "Democrats Go On and On." Jonathan Gibby's name was also misspelled in a photo attribution. The Valley Star apologizes for these mistakes.

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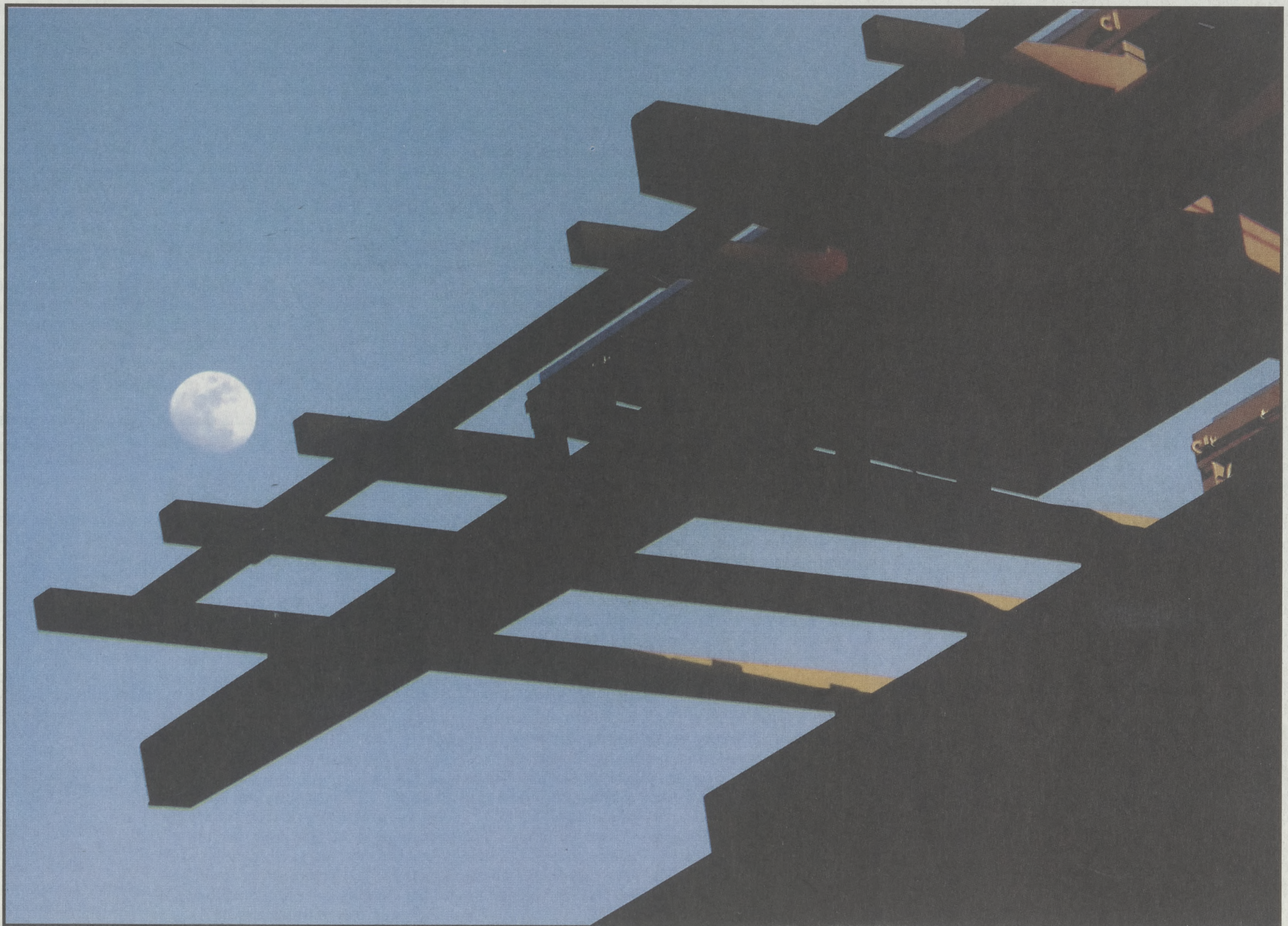
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# GALLERY

## A New Era in Learning



**ARE THEY LUNAR PANELS TOO?** - The moonrise offers a celestial contrast as the sun sets on the solar energy panels and the grid work holding them in place atop the Valley College Allied Health Science Center Friday evening. Equipment for the classrooms, including furniture, will be moved into the building by the end of June.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR / VALLEY STAR

PHOTOS & TEXT BY  
PAUL OLDEN, PHOTO EDITOR

LAYOUT BY  
JONATHAN GIBBY, ASSISTANT PHOTO EDITOR



**STILL HARD AT WORK** - Construction worker Steve Bermudez works under the shade provided by the solar energy panels on top of the Allied Health Science Center on the Valley College campus. The panels will last between 25 and 30 years. Bermudez is one of 250 workers who have taken part in the construction of the the new building.

Shortly before I became a photojournalism student here at Valley College in February 2007, ground was broken for the construction of the Allied Health Science Center.

Since the journalism building is right next to the construction site, I've seen the building practically go from concept to near completion right before my eyes.

I've taken plenty of photos of the place in the last 13 months, but I was limited to taking shots from afar - with an outsider's point of view. That was until last week when I was granted an all-access tour of the construction site.

Our final Gallery of the semester takes a look at a building that is coming to life after months of development.

The Allied Health Science Center is scheduled to open this fall.

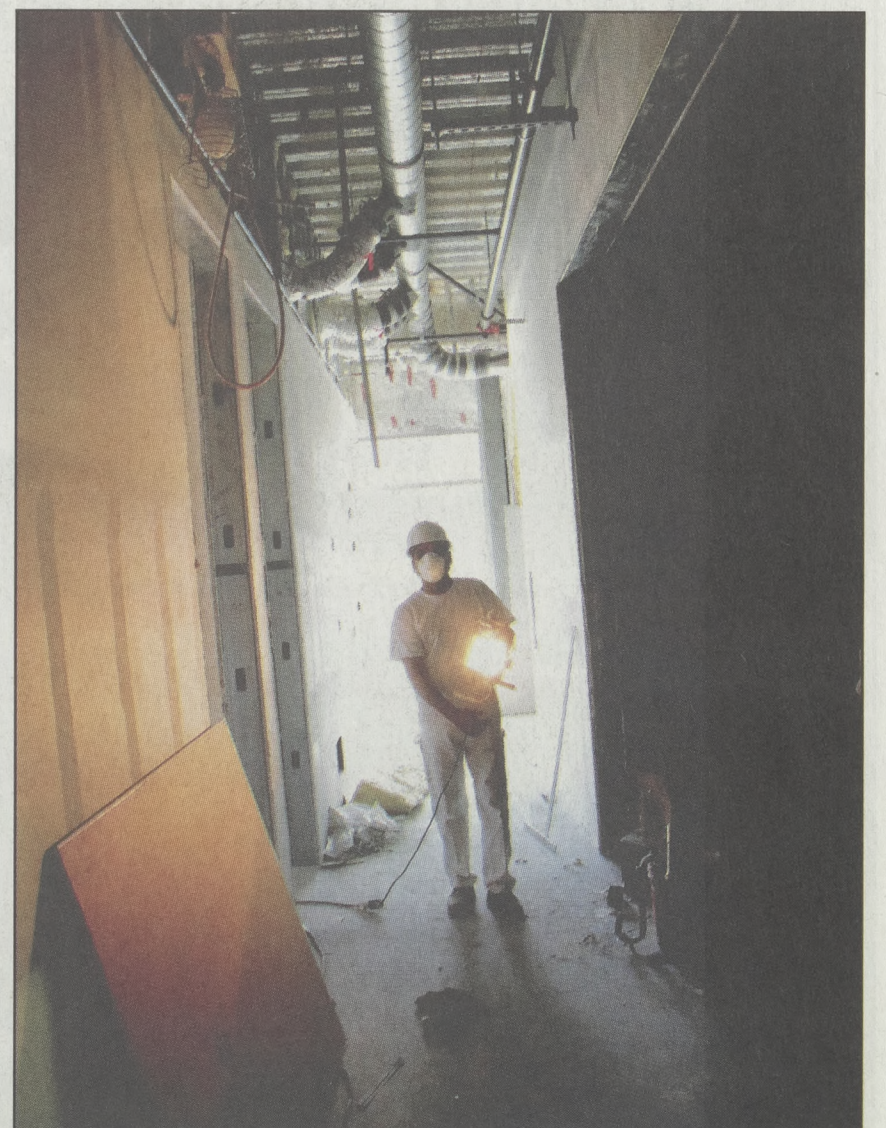
For a video tour of the building, log onto [lavalleystar.com](http://lavalleystar.com).



**GOING GREEN** - With a deadline of this Friday for the installation of the landscaping at the Allied Health Science Center, crews work quickly to get the low maintenance native plants, shrubbery and trees in place.



**WORTH THE WAIT?** - That question won't be answered until the fall of 2008, when the Allied Health Science Center opens to the students and faculty of Valley College. The building is high-tech and about 'green' as a building can get. It's received the second-highest rating for energy efficiency.



**LET THERE BE LIGHT** - Although the Allied Health Science Center is 95 percent complete, this workman still needs a portable light to see what he's doing. But soon, lighting fixtures will be installed and the audio/visual and Internet technology crews will be on site to do their work.